MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL

PRESS RELEASE

20 November, 1992

According to reports which have just been received, the Indonesian authorities, which are illegally occupying the territory of East Timor, have this morning in Dili captured the leader of the Timorese resistance, Xanana Gusmão.

Xanana Gusmão has symbolized, through his courage and tenacity revealed in the carrying out of a struggle involving great risks and in adverse circumstances, the determination with which the people of East Timor have opposed the brutal Indonesian occupation.

The Portuguese government appeals to the international community for it to act, without delay, in achieving the freedom and insuring the physical integrity of Xanana Gusmão and guaranteeing that his rights as a human being be completely respected by the authorities of Indonesia.

Portugal reaffirms its determination in continuing its actions in defence of the rights and liberties of the people of East Timor, including that of being permitted to freely choose its political future, a right which they have been denied, and without which it will not be possible to bring to an end the intolerable situation which prevails in the territory.

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